Patenting Ayurvedic Medicines

†3078. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to conserve Ayurvedic medicines and get them patented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of progress made so far under this plan; and

(d) if not, the reasons for Government's apathy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, an autonomous organisation—fully funded by this Department has patented 3 drugs and developed processes for 15 drugs. The department is also establishing Traditional Knowledge Digital Library for Ayurveda to bring the knowledge about the medicinal use of plants already in the public domain in easily accessible and retrievable form to prevent patenting by others.

Drug addiction among youths

†3079. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the drug addicted unemployed youths, a large number of child labourers suffering from starvation, are now becoming addicted to petro products;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the percentage of youths addicted to drugs, those inhaling greese, petrol, nail polish and shaving lotion and children addicted to smoking in the country; and

(c) the details of action being taken by Government to bring out these youths and children from the evil of addiction?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There is no authentic survey to provide information/statistics relating to the abuse of petro-products, etc. by the youth and child labourers.

(c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has established 110 Drug De-addiction Centres for the treatment of various categories of addicts. In addition to this, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a scheme entitled 'Scheme for Prevention for Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse' wherein grant-in-aid is sanctioned to the non-governmental organisations for providing preventive awareness, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services for all forms of drug abuse/addiction. These organisations implement programmes according to the needs of the various vulnerable target groups. Currently, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is providing assistance to 388 organisations for 138 Counselling and Awareness Programmes and 335 Treatment and Rehabilitation Programmes.

Illegal sale of blood

†3080. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal trade of sale of blood by the people in the country is going on unabated;

(b) if so, the names of States where such trade is mainly going on;

(c) whether Government propose to check this trade; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.